

SATURDAY 26 OCT 91, 0750

861-02-1991

POPC

• LOOKING OUT MY KITCHEN DOORS, SCANNING THE YARD FOR BIRDS, I SAW SEVERAL GRACKLES AT THE GROUND FEEDER, ALONG WITH 6 MOURNING DOVES, A PAIR OF CARDINALS AND SEVERAL HOUSE FINCHES. AT THE POLE FEEDER WERE 2 CHICKADEES, MORE HOUSE FINCHES AND A TUFTED TIT-MOUSE, BUT WHAT CAUGHT MY EYE AS SOMEWHAT UNUSUAL, WAS A SINGLE ICTERID FORAGING IN THE LEAF COVERED TAN BARK AT THE BASE OF THE POLE MOUNTED FEEDER (CONTAINING A MIXTURE OF MILO, MILLET, CRACKED CORN AND BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEEDS).

UPON OBSERVING THE BIRD WITH 10X40 SWIFT BINOCULAR'S AT 15 METERS, I NOTED THE BIRD'S SIZE TO BE THAT OF A STARLING OR RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD (NOTICABLY SMALLER THAN THE GRACKLES AT THE GROUND FEEDER 15 METERS AWAY) AND ITS TAIL WAS ONLY ONE-HALF TO TWO THIRDS THE LENGTH OF THE GRACKLES. ITS' EYE STOOD OUT DISTINCTLY VERY PALE YELLOW, ALMOST WHITE. AS THE BIRD WOULD MOVE LEFT TO RIGHT IN THE MORNING SUN, ITS PURPLE GLOSSY HEAD WOULD SHINE AND ITS BACK WOULD ALSO REFLECT THE LIGHT,

BUT WITH A SOMEWHAT SUBDUED PURPLE / GREEN TONE COMPARED WITH ITS HEAD. THE REST OF THE BIRD WAS ENTIRELY BLACK. I ALSO COULD NOTE ITS BILL WAS DISTINCTLY SHORTER AND PROPORTIONALLY SMALLER THAN THE BILL OF THE GRACKLES.

I OBSERVED THE BIRD FOR WHAT SEEMED TO BE FIVE MINUTES, THEN ANOTHER GROUP OF GRACKLES FLEW INTO THE HACKBERRY TREE ABOVE THE BIRD AND IT TOOK FLIGHT OVER A 100 ACRE FIELD BORDERING MY PROPERTY AND WAS NOT SEEN AGAIN. I'M CONVINCED I WAS OBSERVING A BREWER'S BLACKBIRD.

Comp Hill
Cumberland Co.

Dick Cozyer _____

Pennsylvania Ornithological Records Committee

Voting Tabulation - Round # 1 of

Species: **Brewer's Blackbird**

Date of Sighting: **26 October 1991 to 26 October 1991**

Observer(s): **Dick Colyer**

Date of Submission: **1992 Cumberland**

Submitted by: **Dick Colyer**

Member	Class I	Class II	Class III	Class IV	Class V		
					A	B	C
E. Kwater			X				
B. Haas			X				
F. Haas			X				
R. Ickes			X				
G. McWilliams			X				
S. Santner			X				
J. Skinner			X				
TOTALS			7				
DECISION			X				

Comments:

Signature (Secretary):

Tom Haas

Date:

2-27-93